

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7435

BILL NUMBER: HB 1484

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 8, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Veterans' Affairs Ombudsperson.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Soliday

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☐ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Ombudsperson. The bill provides that the Ombudsperson shall operate as a separate office within DVA.

The bill also provides that the duties of the Ombudsperson include: (1) providing education to veterans regarding resources available; (2) acting as an advocate of a veteran who is in need of assistance offered by the department; (3) making recommendations to the General Assembly that address the demonstrated needs of Indiana veterans; (4) facilitating the resolution of complaints and problems with the department; and (5) making recommendations to the Director of DVA to improve assistance to Indiana veterans. The bill provides that the Ombudsperson must annually submit a report the Governor and the Legislative Council.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes the office of the Ombudsperson within DVA and establishes duties associated with the position. Under the legislation, the Governor appoints the Ombudsperson and would set his salary as well. State expenditures would vary depending on the salary established by the Governor as well as the costs of fringe benefits for the Ombudsperson. Fringe benefits are normally estimated at approximately 33% of an employees salary.

Assuming the base salary for the Ombudsperson would be approximately \$50,000 per year, after including fringe benefits and other indirect costs, the total expenditure per year for the Ombudsperson can be expected to be approximately \$73,000 for the first two years.

DVA is also required to provide and maintain office space for the Ombudsperson within their facilities which

may increase DVA administrative expenses. The Ombudsperson is also allowed access to all records maintained by DVA. Record requests from the Ombudsperson may impact workload of DVA staff to provide necessary information. Increases in workload are expected to be small.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Governor; DVA.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.